

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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TAGS: SOPN, PBOR, IS , EG, XF
SUBJECT: WEST BANK PRESS REACTION: MID-EAST PEACE NEGOTIATIONS

SUMMARY: ALL WEST BANK PAPERS FEATURE IN HEADLINE
EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KAMEL'S DECLARATION THAT RESUMP-
TION OF TALKS WITH ISRAEL WOULD BE A "WASTE OF TIME."
AL-QUDS (MODERATE, PRO-JORDANIAN) AND ASHA'B (PALESTINIAN
NATIONALIST) PERCEIVE IN KAMEL'S STATEMENT EGYPTIAN
RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL'S INTRANSIGENCE, AND COMMENT THAT
ONLY AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT KEEPS EGYPT WITH THE PEACE
INITIATIVE. AL FAJR (PRO-PLO) EDITORIALIZES ON THE
KNESSET'S VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT AND
DAYAN'S NEW PROPOSALS AS STRENGTHENING BEGIN AND
WEAKENING HIS OPPOSITION. AL QUDS NOTES ADMINISTRATION
DENIALS OF REPLACEMENT OF AMBASSADOR ATHERTON.

1. AL QUDS SEES THE ARAB ISRAELI CONFLICT IN A "NEW PHASE"
MARKED BY "THE BEGINNING OF THE END" OF THE EGYPTIAN
INITIATIVE WITH ITS CONTINUATION RESTING UPON "EGYPTIAN
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CONFIDENCE IN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION." THE PAPER
CHARACTERIZES THE AMERICAN ROLE AS "PARALYZED AND NON-
EFFECTIVE" AND CONCLUDES "EGYPT IS CLOSE TO THE ZERO HOUR FOR
THE PEACE INITIATIVE."

2. ASHA'B IN A SIMILAR VEIN BELIEVES "EGYPTIAN OFFICIALS
HAVE STARTED TO WAKE UP...." AND ARE BECOMMING "CONVINCED

OF THE FAILURE OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL." AS TO WHAT KEEPS EGYPT IN THE NEGOTIATION PROCESS, THE PAPER VIEWS THE SADAT "REGIME" AS BEING "ENTANGLED IN AN AMERICAN NET." IT CALLS UPON EGYPT TO TAKE A DECISIVE STAND IN FACE OF "THE NEW ISRAELI HARD LINE AND THE MIRAGE OF AMERICAN MOVEMENT."

AL FAJR NOTES THAT THE JULY 26 VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE LIKUD GOVERNMENT IS "CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT BEGIN'S POSITION HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED IN THE SAME PROPORTION AS THE OPPOSITION HAS BEEN WEAKENED." THOUGH DAYAN'S "FORMAL FLEXIBILITY AND TACTICAL RETREAT" THE PAPER SAYS BEGIN IS PREPARING TO "LAY ASIDE THE MOLDS OF INFLEXIBLE EXPRESSIONS" AND USE "ELASTIC POLITICAL TERMINOLOGY" THAT WILL "LENGTHEN THE LIFE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS... WITHOUT REACHING DECISIVE RESULTS."
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